

**New Shoreham Recreation Board  
Tuesday, December 20, 2011  
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Road  
8:15 a.m.**

**Present:** Chair John Cullen, Member Ann Hall and Alternate Christopher Willi. Absent: Gail Heinz, Tim Clark, Sarah Cook and Alternate Kristin Baumann. Also present were Recreation Director Robert Closter and, for the recording of minutes, Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes.

Chair John Cullen called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Approve Minutes for November 15, 2011**

A motion was made by Ms. Hall and seconded by Mr. Willi to approve the minutes of November 15, 2011. The motion carried with all in favor.

3 Ayes (Cullen, Willi, Hall)    0 Nays    4 Absent (Baumann, Clark, Cook, Heinz)

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Old Business**

**(a) Heinz Field**

Mr. Closter reported that the Town Council addressed the Heinz Field Management Plan at their last meeting. As the plan is a joint agreement with the Block Island Land Trust, they asked the Land Trust to reconsider their policy and allow non-organic fertilizers on Heinz Field. The Land Trust considered the request at their meeting, but did not modify their policy. Mr. Closter noted that organics cost about three times that of synthetics. The Town Council will re-agenda the item in January. Mr. Willi stated that those involved have dissimilar thoughts as to the level of field maintenance standards to be achieved.

Mr. Closter stated that the Council also briefly addressed the issue of the physical maintenance of the field in response to the Recreation Board's letter. He noted that they said it was a management issue and should be addressed with the Town Manager. Discussion ensued regarding including the maintenance in the Town mowing contract vs. the Town Highways department undertaking the duties. Mr. Willi asked that Director Closter provide him with an appropriate maintenance plan that includes duties, frequencies of duties and number of man hours needed to maintain the field to a safe and playable level.

**(b) Skating Rink**

Mr. Cullen reported that he met with the Block Island Land Trust regarding a location for the skating rink. They did not have a suitable location and encouraged a Heinz Field placement. He noted that an adequate location at Heinz Field has been selected. Mr.

Closter stated that an agreement needs to be set up with the Town Manager spelling out the details. Mr. Closter stated the rink needs to be installed and broken down by volunteers and must be broken down by the beginning of March. An agreement will be pursued.

Discussion also ensued regarding establishing a level area on the Carley Lot for the rink in the future.

**(c) Ski Trip**

Mr. Closter reported that a grinder sale implemented by Tracy Heinz made \$2,300 which will cover the transportation costs for the ski trip. At this time there are 25 participants signed up.

**New Business**

**(a) Fred Benson Town Beach**

Mr. Closter reported that the proposed beach pavilion plan was priced out at \$1.5 million to construct. The group is now looking at a minor renovation to the existing building.

**(b) Director's Leave**

Mr. Closter explained that he would be taking leave under the Family Leave Act to care for his new baby and would be working part-time, doing programming only. The leave is to begin January 23, 2012 and will last for 12 weeks.

**Other Business**

Mr. Closter noted that the Block Island Land Trust, part owner of the Ball O'Brien Park, would like the proposed bathroom facility to be placed near the parking lot. The parking lot location would add about \$50,000 to the project for additional plumbing and trenching. The item will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Cullen made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hall and passed unanimously.

Millie McGinnes  
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: February 28, 2012